Import of foodgrains

1213. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import foodgrains to meet the shortfall in production; and

(b) if so, the quantity and value of imports and the name of the country from which import will be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government keeps open the option to import the foodgrains as and when considered necessary.

A quantity of one million tonnes of wheat at a cost of about US $ 103.78 million (FOB) will be imported from the USA with a view to replenishing the buffer stocks.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) has already imported some pulses and it is proposed that NAFED may import further approximatey about 50,000 MT depending upon the availability and prices from various sources like Turkey, Australia, Thailand, Burma, etc.

STC has also contracted for 31,500 MT of various pulses for imports from different sources. Except for a quantity of 4000 MT which have to be shipped in May-June 1988 all the pulses have been received.

NAFED has also been granted licence for import of 2 lakh tonnes of maize on commercial basis and further action is in progress.

Maize is also proposed to be received on gift basis from the USA.

Allegations against the Manager of NCCF

1214. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious allegations of malpractices brought out in the March 1986 issue of Indian Observer against the Manager (Personnel and Administration) NCCF in appointing a large number of persons in NCCF between 1983 and 1985;

(b) if so, whether it is fact that the same officer is also alleged to be responsible for causing heavy losses to NCCF during 1978-79 in making indiscriminate purchases of pulses and packing materials without inviting tenders and prior approval of the competent authority;

(c) whether it is a also a fact that the same officer owns a house in Chittaranjan Park (G-1318), New Delhi disproportionate to his known income; and

(d) if so, what is the outcome of the inquiry if any, made by Government in the matters and the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D L. BAITHA): (a) Government are aware of complaints of alleged malpractices and irregularities in certain appointments in the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation during 1983-85.

(b) to (d) During 1978-79 the NCCF at the instance of Department of Civil Supplies and Delhi Administartion undertook the supply of pulses in printed polythene packs of 1 kg. to the fair price shops in Delhi in order to arrest the rising trend of prices of pulses which were ruling very high then. While finalising the proposals, it was envisaged that some loss would be inevitable. NCCF intimated that since the matter pertained to 1978-79 and the old records